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July 1, 1949

WHO PAYS FOR SURPLUSES? With crop reports indicating that the production of a number of major crops may exceed market demands, _____, chairman of the _____ agricultural conservation committee, raises two basic questions: What is the cost of surplus farm commodities and who pays the cost?

He points out that the production costs include the fertility of the soil which goes into the production of the excess bushels and bales, the cost of seed, the labor in preparing the land, seeding, cultivating and harvesting the crop, the cost of machinery, and interest on the investment.

In the main these costs are borne by the farmer. But the cost of the fertility wasted in the production of the excess bushels and bales and the breaking down of soil structure through too much single cropping is finally paid for by the consumers. In the long run all the people pay for wasted land.

Without price supports, the business firms with whom the farmer trades would pay through reduced business. Under price supports, any excessive surpluses increase the cost of price protection and often quantities of the product are wasted or have to be used for uneconomical purposes. Again all the people pay.

In general, the chairman points out that without price supports and adjusted production the cost is greater than with them. Excess production forces farm prices down below production costs and when the farmers' buying power is gone that much of the national market is dried up. Business on the Main Streets of thousands of small cities slows down to a standstill. The orders stop and the big businesses in the big cities have to retrench.

Just how much this would contribute to bringing on a depression, Mr. _____ said, is debatable but there is no question that depressed farmer buying power has a major effect upon the whole economy.

FARMERS' SHARE OF FOOD DOLLAR DROPS: Farmers recently have been getting less than half of each dollar spent by consumers for farm food products, reports the Department of Agriculture.

During April 1949, farmers received only 49 cents out of each farm-food-dollar -- the first time since May 1943 that the farmers' share had dropped below 50 cents. The farmers' share reached a peak of 55 cents several times between November 1945 and January 1948.

By April 1949, the retail price of a "market basket" of foodstuffs had declined 8 percent, compared with July 1948 when the retail cost reached an all-time high. The report indicates that the entire drop came out of the farm value, which shrank 16 percent. Marketing charges in April were at about the same level as last July, and only 4 percent below the May 1948 peak.

During the year April 1948 to April 1949, the farm value of the market basket went down 9 percent, marketing charges went down 1 percent, and the retail cost went down 5 percent.

A FARM SOLUTION: Tired of farming? Want to get rid of your land?

Here's the recipe:

Cut one medium sized farm into irregular pieces.

Add several successive cash crops to remove the humus.

Stir the thin layer of topsoil frequently until the soil particles are ready to be carried off by the next hard rain. Carefully work the land up and down the slope so that the furrows will form waterways for rapid disposal of excess water -- and soil. Keep doing this until the hardpan shows through on the hill-tops and slopes.

Then cut into deep, irregular gullies and leave out in the sun to bake.

When done, season with an unpainted house, broken down fences, some old worn-out machinery, a rickety barn, a good sprinkling of unpaid bills, with a pinch of despair. Garnish with weeds.

Serve with a tax sale and move on.

CORN LOAN DEADLINE WAS JUNE 30: June 30 was the deadline for obtaining a Government loan or purchase agreement on the 1948 corn crop, according to J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

A corn resealing program also has been announced under which farmers in areas where both loans and purchase agreements are available may extend their loans or put purchase agreement corn under loan, to mature July 31, 1950. Such action must be taken not later than October 31, 1949.

The resealing program seeks to slow down the excessive movement of corn off the farms, which would result from heavy deliveries of corn to the Commodity Credit Corporation this fall. From July 1, 1948, through June 17, 1949, a total of 1,195,327 bushels of corn had been acquired by the Government under the price-support program.

Other grains acquired during the period under price support include 113 million bushels of wheat, 5.5 million bushels of barley, 31,476 bushels of rye, 13.4 million bushels of grain sorghums, and 920,000 bushels of oats.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AUG 24 1949
July 7, 1949

LOANS TO FARMERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FARM STORAGE FACILITIES AVAILABLE:

Mr. _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Association urges farmers to investigate the recently announced program whereby loans are available for the construction or purchase of additional farm storage facilities. The storage loan program is made available to help farmers increase their storage capacity and to assure storage space for crops produced in 1949 and subsequent years.

Loans are available to any producer who is in need of additional storage capacity on or nearby his farm to store his own production of corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, grain sorghums, soybeans, flaxseed, dry edible beans and dry peas.

The County Agricultural Conservation Association office located at _____ has the application forms necessary for filing, and will assist producers in executing applications.

Storage facilities to be constructed or purchased should be able to store the applicant's 1949 production, plus one-year carryover. The proposed storage structure must be soundly constructed, of suitable capacity, strength and design, and be an eligible storage structure under the price-support program.

Loans may be made through approved local lending agencies or direct with Commodity Credit Corporation.

The amount of the loan may not exceed 85 percent of the cost of the storage structure, or 45 cents per bushel of the rated storage capacity. Loans are made on a 5-year repayment plan, with the first payment due January 1, 1951. Interest will be charged at 4 percent per annum.

The only other charges involved will be recording and other legal fees connected with obtaining the required collateral documents, and a service fee. At the time of filing, the applicant will be required to pay a service fee of one-fourth cent per bushel of storage capacity, the minimum charge being \$2.50. This fee is to pay for inspection of the structure, and other services performed by the County Committee in connection with the loan and application.

ROTATIONS AND CONSERVATION: Rotating so called "cash" crops with hay and pasture adds life to the land and cash to the bank account, says _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee.

He points out that farmers have been overworking their land, first, to meet war needs and then for post-war demands and prices. And now that supplies are catching up and, in some cases, passing demands, there is need to get more land into grass and clover.

One of the recommended ways to do that is to establish a good rotation for cropland. A good rotation for _____ county would be (list approved rotation or rotations).

Since one of the main purposes of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to keep good land good as well as to correct erosion and depletion on land that is going to pieces, a number of conservation practices in connection with establishing a good rotation are included in the ACP program.

Mr. _____ advises farmers to check on seed supplies now if they are planning to put more land into a rotation. By ordering early the chances are better for getting the kinds and varieties of grass and legume seeds which are best adapted to local conditions.

On sloping land which is subject to erosion, the county chairman recommends contour strip-cropping in connection with the rotation. The alternate strips of grass and legumes will hold the soil and help protect the land in cultivated crops.

Then when the conserving crops are plowed under in changing use of the land, reserves of plant food and humus will be built up to increase yields of the cash crops.

With the possibility that price supports will soon be tied to a reduction in acres of certain crops, the chairman urges farmers to plan now to make the best use of this land taken out of surplus crops.

KNOW YOUR ACP COMMITTEEMEN: The work of the elected farmer Agricultural Conservation Program committeemen -- both county and community -- has taken on a new importance in preparation for the possible establishment of acreage allotments and conducting marketing quota referendums. Final decisions by the Secretary still await current crop prospects but the committees have to be ready.

The committeemen continue to have the big responsibility for the operation of the Agricultural Conservation Program and now they are in the midst of getting figures together for individual farms as a basis for possible allotment and marketing quota operations.

If and when a county allotment is made, it will be up to the county committee to make equitable allocations to individual farmers. They must administer the crop loan part of the program and are busy helping farmers with their storage problems.

These committeemen, county and community, who have so much to do with the operation of the Production and Marketing Administration in _____ county are all local farmers. They are elected each year by their farmer neighbors.

The chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee is _____, of _____. The vice chairman is _____, of _____. The regular member of the committee is _____, and the two alternates are _____ and _____ of _____, _____, _____ respectively.

Elected community committeemen are: (List names and communities they represent.)

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



FARM NEWS

July 18, 1949

PROTECTION FOR SOILS THAT BLOW: After the old grass roots, humus and other vegetable matter have been sifted out there's not much left to hold the soil in a heavy wind, says _____, chairman of the Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Year-after-year plowing, discing, weeding and stirring speed up the processes which reduce humus and break down soil particles into "wind moving" size. For a few years after land has been broken out of sod it will often hold together "pretty well." There are enough of the old grass roots to hold the soil particles together. But after a time these tiny roots decay or they are worked to the surface where they are blown away. The surface soil becomes powdery. Then when a heavy wind comes along, the soil is lifted in great clouds of dust.

In a heavy wind, the chairman explains, these soil particles become a sort of sand blast to cut away the surface of other fields. Unless stopped, this cutting effect moves across the country with destructive effect.

But this land can be protected against wind erosion by carrying out a number of approved conservation measures, Mr. _____ explains. In areas subject to wind erosion, rotations which include a sod should be followed. Protected strips -- field strip cropping -- are effective in keeping the wind from getting a start in blowing the soil away. Incorporating the straw, or other crop residues, into a rough, cloddy surface helps to hold the soil against the wind. Shelter belts are effective in the immediate area.

The Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman advises, provides assistance to farmers in carrying out the conservation practices best designed to protect land against wind erosion.

PLANS FOR STORAGE STRUCTURES AVAILABLE: Plans for 29 different grain storage structures can be seen by farmers of _____ (name) county at the Agricultural Conservation Association office in _____ (city). These plans cover both small grain bins and corn cribs.

The blue prints and specifications embody the recommendations of a group of agricultural engineers who met recently at Ames, Iowa. These engineers considered the latest information on the sizes and shapes of structures that are suitable for storing crops on farms.

County ACP Chairman _____ (full name) points out that grain crops, particularly corn, are not harvested in a short time and, therefore, often are too high in moisture for safe storage. Some of the corn crib plans are designed so that the corn can be dried artificially. Others are narrow enough to get the benefit of natural air drying.

The plans also include bins for those parts of the country where stored grain must be treated for insect infestation. The plans are for structures of different capacities to meet the needs of different size farms.

The chairman advised that soon there also will be available for distribution two leaflets containing sketches and construction details to help farmers with their storage problems, one for small grains and shelled corn and the other for ear corn.

NOTE: Plans will be forwarded from this office on July 18, 1949.

WHOSE GULLY? That gully cutting across a field of good cropland also cuts across the supply line to your grocery store. The food that could have been produced from the topsoil that was washed away in forming that gully will never reach grocery shelves.

In this pointed manner, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, calls attention to the responsibility of everyone - not just the farmers alone - in protecting soil resources.

As the chairman explains: "The gully is not just a loss to the farmer who happens to be owning the land. It is a loss to all who depend on the land for their food and clothing. And the loss extends to those who will be depending on the land in the future.

"In most cases a gully is but the more dramatic evidence of erosion. Less spectacular but more serious is the slow, steady loss of topsoil in the area that feeds into the gully. The gully is the open door through which tons and tons of soil are being carried away."

Through the Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman explains, all the people of the country are cooperating with the farmers in carrying out practices to prevent gullies and to build up the humus in the soil so that it won't be washed or blown away with every rain or wind. The program is a cooperative effort to build up and maintain the soil to assure continued production.

CCC ACQUIRES GRAIN STOCKS: More than 159 million bushels of 1948-crop grain have been acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under price-support and purchase agreements, according to incomplete reports. This includes 129 million bushels of wheat, 7 million bushels of barley, 4 million bushels of corn, 31,000 bushels of rye, 17 million bushels of grain sorghums, and 2 million bushels of oats.

In addition, grain and wheat flour purchased under CCC supply programs totaled 429 million bushels during the 1948-49 fiscal year ended June 30. Such purchases during the preceding year totaled 413 million bushels.

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FARM NEWS

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July 22, 1949

SURPLUS CROPLAND? The country cannot afford to allow good productive farm land to go to waste, declares J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota State PMA Committee, stressing the need for conserving the land taken out of tilled crops.

He points out that to use good productive land to further increase surpluses is a waste both of the land and of the money necessary to grow the unneeded crops. Such land either should produce crops which are needed or be set aside and conserved for future use.

The Agricultural Conservation Program provides financial assistance to farmers for putting such land into conserving uses, the chairman explains. This assistance averages about 50 percent of the "out-of-pocket" cost of carrying out approved conservation practices.

Recommended practices for such land include the establishment of permanent pasture, rotation pasture, hay meadows, cover crops, green manure, and planting to trees. A check up at the County Agricultural Conservation Association office will indicate which of these are approved for a particular county and the financial assistance available.

"With the nation's population increasing at the rate of about 2 million a year, all available land will be needed in the future, says the chairman.

"To waste the land either in producing currently unmarketable surpluses or to allow the land to deteriorate from erosion and neglect is to undermine the security of future generations."

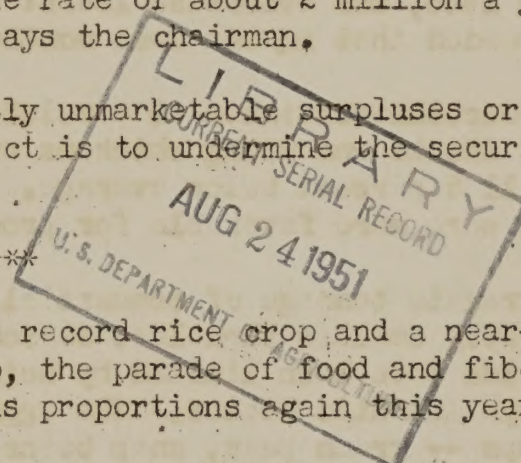
ANOTHER GREAT CROP YEAR IN PROSPECT: Lead by a record rice crop and a near-record corn crop, the parade of food and fiber from the nation's farms promises to reach tremendous proportions again this year.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's July 1 crop report points out that the total acreage in crops is the largest since 1933 and yields are promising. Although wheat production fell 148 million bushels below earlier expectations, the crop of 1,189 million bushels still is third largest of record.

Aggregate production, based upon current forecasts, may be 31 percent above the 1923-32 average, exceeded only by the record set last year.

The report explains that favorable conditions at planting time resulted in increased plantings over previous intentions for a number of major crops. The acreage upon which the 52 principal crops were planted or growing in 1949 totals over 366 million acres.

Feed grains as a group are the heaviest contributors to the prospective aggregate crop. Included are the second-largest corn crop in history, a large crop of oats,



a relatively small barley crop and a sorghum grain crop probably less than last year, but above average. With the heavy carry-over, supplies of feed grains will be among the most liberal ever available per animal unit.

Hay supplies per animal unit also will be adequate, though somewhat under last year.

With the exception of the record 86 million bushel rice crop, food grains are below last year's level. Rye production is estimated 20 million bushels below last year.

Cotton acreage is one-seventh larger than in 1948 and development is advanced for this date. This is the largest acreage planted to cotton since 1937.

The large cotton acreage also indicates a larger than normal supply of cottonseed. Among other oilseeds, flaxseed production is expected to be the third largest of record. Acreage of soybeans for beans will be less than last year, but above average. Peanut acreage is only four-fifths of last year's.

Estimated tobacco production is a little above last year and considerably above average. The potato crop will be below average and well below last year. Production of sweet potatoes will exceed the small 1948 crop, but remain below average.

The trend for both dry beans and dry peas is downward, but dry bean production will still exceed the average by a wide margin.

Prospects for deciduous fruits, except apricots and prunes, are better than average.

Milk production per cow on July 1 was the highest of record for the date; despite reduced pasture feed and hot weather. June milk production, while slightly more than in 1948, was otherwise lowest in 9 years. Production in each month of 1949 has exceeded that in the same month of 1948.

Egg production continued at a relatively heavy rate, both in total and eggs per layer. Chicks and young chickens on farms number 12 percent more than a year ago, but still 5 percent below average. Prices of eggs and chickens, compared with feed prices, were more favorable for producers than a year ago.

The aggregate tonnage of commercial truck crops for harvest during the summer season is slightly smaller than last season, but more than average. The acreage is larger, but yields have been limited by hot, dry weather in important areas, particularly in the North Atlantic States. The aggregate acreage planted to the four major processing crops -- green peas, snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes -- is about 4 percent below 1948.

WATER FOR LIVESTOCK: Dry weather this year has shown the need for more stock-water reservoirs, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, points out. The old saying about "not missing the water" is as true of stock-water reservoirs as it is of wells.

Because stock-water reservoirs, or ponds, are so important in obtaining proper distribution of livestock on the range or pasture, assistance for their construction is available under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

In addition to providing watering places for livestock resulting in more even grazing and less trampling around limited watering places, these reservoirs also help to control floods and check erosion.

To qualify for assistance, the chairman explains, reservoirs must be constructed in accordance with program specifications. These specifications serve both to protect the farmer against having the dam wash out and to protect the country's investment in conservation.

Mr. _____ points out that this has been a good year to test the value of the stock-water reservoirs which have been constructed under the ACP. A total of _____ such reservoirs have been constructed in _____ county. This year (number) _____ farmers have signed up to construct a total of _____ reservoirs. Already about _____ of these have been completed.

Information on the details of location and specifications of stock-water dams may be obtained at the _____ county AAA office, located at _____.

WHEAT AGREEMENT TO TAKE EFFECT: As of July 9, the International Wheat Agreement had been ratified by nations responsible for 99.6 percent of the guaranteed exports and 84.5 percent of the guaranteed imports. Eighteen of the 42 nations signing the Agreement had not yet ratified.

Provisions regarding guaranteed sales and purchases of wheat under the Agreement becomes effective on August 1. The Agreement seeks "to assure supplies of wheat to importing countries and markets for wheat to exporting countries at equitable and stable prices." U. S. sales under the Agreement total 168 million bushels of wheat for each of the 4 years covered.

At the first session of the International Wheat Council, held recently in Washington, it was agreed that signatory nations may have until October 31, 1949 to ratify the Agreement. After that, nations may still be admitted, including those that did not sign, by a two-thirds vote of the exporters and importers voting separately.

London was voted the permanent seat of the Wheat Council. F. Sheed Anderson, leader of the United Kingdom delegation and Under Secretary of the Ministry of Food of the United Kingdom, was elected Chairman of both the Council and the Executive Committee for the crop-year 1949-50. Edwin McCarthy, who has represented Australia and is Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Agriculture of the Australian Government, was made Vice-Chairman.

The United States was elected a member of the Executive Committee for the 1949-50 crop-year and of the Advisory Committee on Price Equivalents,

The next meeting of the Council will be convened in London in early November.

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July 29, 1949

COUNTY WHEAT ALLOTMENTS ANNOUNCED: A 1950 wheat allotment of _____ acres for _____ county was announced _____ (day) by the county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

This represents _____ county's proportionate share of the national wheat acreage allotment of 66.9 million acres for the crop that will be harvested next year, _____ committee chairman explains. The national allotment is the acreage that at normal yields will produce an amount of wheat which together with the expected carryover next July 1 will supply contemplated domestic and export requirements and provide a safe reserve.

"Individual farm allotments, based on acreage and production data collected over the past several months, are being established," _____ stated, "and notices to growers will be mailed from the county office as soon as possible."

Acreage allotments are not an enforced limitation on production, but provide a limitation on Government expenditures for price support beyond the national interest, _____ explains. Only those farmers who seed within their farm allotments will be entitled to price supporting commodity loans or purchase agreements on their 1950 crop.

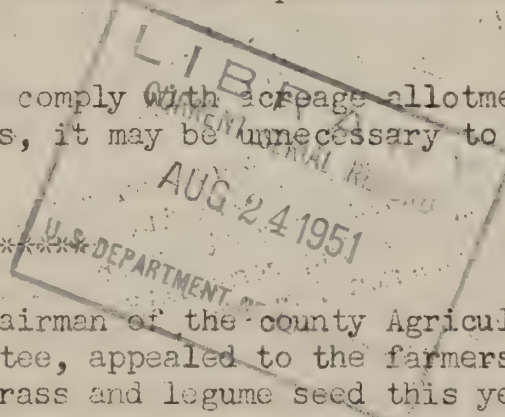
"Although adverse conditions during the growing season have resulted in a smaller 1949 wheat crop than expected earlier, this year's harvest will still be the third largest of record and the sixth consecutive wheat crop in excess of one billion bushels," _____ points out. "The average yearly domestic consumption of wheat is only 700 million bushels, and only abnormally high exports supported by ECA allotments and army purchases for occupied countries has prevented the accumulation of price-despressing surpluses."

_____ emphasizes that if wheat growers comply with acreage allotments, thus adjusting production to expected requirements, it may be unnecessary to use marketing quotas for future crops.

SAVE GRASS AND LEGUME SEED: _____, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee, appealed to the farmers of _____ county to use greater care in harvesting grass and legume seed this year.

He called attention to the need for increased supplies of most grass and legume seeds for the seeding of acres diverted from crops which are under adjustment. These currently include wheat, potatoes, peanuts, certain varieties of tobacco and flax. In the offing are adjustments in corn and cotton.

Rather than leave this land idle to grow weeds and wash and blow away, it should be seeded to grass and legumes in areas where this is possible, the chairman advises. Often the resulting income from this land is equal to returns from the crops formerly grown there. And when this land is so used, reserves of fertility are built up in the soil for future production.



As a vital part of this effort the chairman stresses the need for more grass and legume seed. To this end he urges farmers to harvest more grass and legume seed and to use every means to save the greatest possible amount of seed in harvesting operations.

Mr. _____ said that often the amount of seed harvested can be more than doubled by greater care in harvesting with a corresponding increased financial return to the farmer.

The simple matter of plugging leaks in the combine or thresher and in the screens will often save much seed, the chairman suggests.

WHO ELECTS FARMER COMMITTEEMEN: Here in _____ county farmers are faced with important decisions concerning acreage adjustment, crop loans and other price support efforts, conservation and many other phases of the nation's production and marketing program.

With the increase in work and responsibility, chairman _____ of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee again calls attention to the fact that committee men who make these decisions are elected by the farmers. Each year, elections are held in each farming community and the time is approaching when farmers will elect their committeemen for 1950.

"It is of the utmost importance that the committeemen elected truly represent the farmers of the community," says chairman _____.

"Although elections are still several months away, it is not too early for farmers to give serious thought to whom they want to administer the various farm programs in 1950. If the present committeemen are doing the job all right, they are entitled to a vote of confidence. If they are not - now is the time to give careful consideration to replacements.

"Committeemen are farmers elected by farmers to do a vital job of administering the Agricultural Conservation and related programs. In the aftermath of war their decisions will affect the operations of every farmer in the county."

CROP RESIDUES AND RUNOFF: Whether raindrops "dig in" to help in producing higher yields or "dig out" the soil particles and carry them away depends a great deal on the protective cover for the land, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

When raindrops strike bare soil, the particles which give the soil its structure are broken and the surface is sealed over. This compact layer - often less than an eighth of an inch thick - may become "slick" so that it sheds water like a tin roof. Instead of soaking in, the raindrops run off. As the little trickles run together, they pick up particles of soil and the bombardment of these soil particles increases the erosion.

Where there is a good covering of grass or other thick growing crops, the fall of the raindrops is broken and the moisture filters down into the soil.

Crop residues serve the same purpose. The stubble of a small grain crop incorporated into the surface soil helps to break up the falling raindrops so that more of

the moisture soaks in. The crop residues also help to hold the soil together — keep it from being broken up for easy erosion.

Mr. _____ explains that the Agricultural Conservation Program encourages farmers to carry out practical measures for checking erosion and conserving moisture. The purpose is to provide an incentive to get farmers started in conservation farming. Since the entire population depends on the soil for food and fiber it is to the national interest to see that the source of these necessities is protected.

He urges all farmers of _____ county to use the program to help them with their conservation problems.

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August 5, 1949

1950 ACP ANNOUNCED: Farmers of North Dakota will be encouraged to use the erosion control and soil building practices of the 1950 Agricultural Conservation Program to make the best use of land taken out of allotment crops, J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State PMA Committee said today. The national list of approved conservation practices has just been received and a State list is now being prepared for use in counties.

The chairman points out that the State wheat allotment of 9,495,166 acres calls for a reduction of 1,147,834 acres from the estimated 10,643,000 acres seeded in 1949, and reductions may be needed in other crops also.

Where practicable the seeding of grass and legumes will be encouraged. This will make it possible to build soil reserves for the future and at the same time provide feed for additional livestock. With livestock numbers low, an increase will bring about a better production balance. It will be balancing production, not cutting production, the State Chairman said.

The 1950 ACP program soon to be announced will be available to all farmers in the State.

"Farmers cooperating in the Program will be helping other farmers and the nation as a whole to build a stronger and more stable agriculture," says the chairman. "They will be building on the work already done and will be helping to put into practice the better methods of conservation farming resulting from experience and research."

Within a few weeks, State Handbooks carrying provisions of the program and a list of conservation practices which have been approved for North Dakota will be sent to counties to serve as a basis for county programs.

As in the past, assistance under the program will be in the form of financial aid, amounting to about half the "out-of-pocket" cost of the practices. This assistance is not to exceed \$2500 to any one farmer. Under the 1949 Program assistance was limited to \$750.

MARKETING ORDERS INSURE GOOD POTATOES FOR HOUSEWIVES: Efforts to insure that quality potatoes reach consumers are being made in at least seven distinct producing areas this year, according to a recent announcement by the Department of Agriculture.

In the area centered around Caldwell, Idaho, a marketing order limits shipments of Russet Burbank and Long White varieties of early Irish potatoes to sizes 2 inches or larger in diameter or 4 ounces in weight, and of all other varieties to sizes $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or larger in diameter. Since August 6, 1948, shipments of all varieties from the area have been limited to U.S. No. 2 or better.

Marketing orders which regulate the handling of potatoes in areas of heavy production are also currently operating in (1) the State of Colorado; (2) the Klamath Basin, which includes the California counties of Modoc and Siskiyou and Crook, Deschutes, and Klamath counties in Oregon; (3) the North Central States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota; (4) South Dakota; (5) the State of Maine; and (6) the early crop in Virginia and North Carolina.

GRAIN EXPORTS BREAK ALL RECORDS: U. S. grain exports during the past shipping season broke all previous records, the Department of Agriculture reports. The total for the 12 months July 1948 - June 1949 is estimated in a preliminary report at more than 686 million bushels, compared with the 588 million bushels in 1947-48.

Exports for the year just ended included more than 500 million bushels of wheat, wheat flour, and macaroni products, and 186 million bushels of other grains and grain products. Exports during 1947-48 included 486 million bushels of wheat, flour and macaroni products, and 102 million bushels of other grains and grain products.

About 38 percent of the grains shipped during 1948-49 moved to the U. S. Occupied Zones of Germany, Japan, and Korea.

CONSERVATION PAYS - THE CONSUMER: The investment the country is making in conservation is paying off, and a substantial share of the dividends is going to the consumers of the country, says _____ chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is a consumer as well as a farmer program. The major objective is to maintain and improve the productivity of the land so there will be enough food and fiber to meet all needs.

As the chairman points out, the people of cities and towns are dependent upon the land for food and fiber. They have a vital interest in keeping the land productive.

And, says the chairman, the work being done under the program is paying off. While the conservation work completed by farmers cooperating in the ACP cannot be credited wholly with the tremendous increase in production since the "thirties," the improved productivity of the land has made increased production possible through better cultural methods, chemicals, and field crop strains.

This increased production during and since the war represents consumer dividends from the investment made by the government in conservation in the last 13 years, the chairman points out. But, further than that, the soil has been built up and is being built up to continue to produce abundantly in the future. The very fact that allotments are needed to bring production into balance with needs, is in part due to the effectiveness of the Agricultural Conservation Program.

And there are other direct consumer dividends which should not be overlooked, the chairman explains. The increased productivity of the land plus price supports adds to the farmer's buying power and increases activity in the transportation and merchandising of farm commodities. It means more business for Main Street and the market places in big cities.



August 12, 1949

WHEAT CARRYOVER INCREASES: Decreasing requirements and continued heavy production of wheat are reflected in the 293 million bushel carryover July 1, 1949, says _____, Chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

This large excess over requirements for the marketing year just ended is about 50 percent larger than the July 1, 1948 carryover and about 3 times as large as the very small carryover stocks in 1946 and 1947.

"Actually," the chairman explains, "these stocks of old-crop wheat represent about what is considered an adequate reserve at the present level of requirements. But unless growers reduce their plantings for the crop to be harvested in 1950 in compliance with their acreage allotments, the carryover on July 1, 1950 is likely to reach surplus proportions."

To illustrate this, _____ points to the figures on disappearance for the past few marketing seasons. Disappearance from the 1948-49 wheat supply of 1,484 million bushels was 1,191 million bushels up to July 1, 1949. Despite record exports during the past year of 501 million bushels of wheat, wheat flour and macaroni products, the total disappearance was exceeded in the 1947-48 season and by the record amount of 1,287 million bushels in the 1945-46 season.

"Although the total supply of wheat in prospect for the marketing year which began July 1 is only slightly more than for the year just ended, total use of U. S. wheat in 1949-50 is expected to be less," _____ explains. "As a result, a 1950 crop of around 1,110 million bushels will, together with the expected carryover on July 1, 1950, produce a total supply adequate to care for 1950-51 requirements plus a 30 percent reserve."

The national wheat acreage allotment of 68.9 million acres for the crop to be harvested in 1950 is therefore that acreage which, on the basis of the national average yield, would produce the needed 1,110 million bushels. The chairman points out that it is this national acreage allotment on which individual farm allotments are based.

Farm stocks of wheat on July 1 of 66 million bushels make up a much smaller proportion of the total than usual, the chairman states. Stocks of old wheat in terminal elevators, reported at 128 million bushels, have increased since April 1 and are the largest for July 1 since the 1941-43 period. Merchant-mill stocks of nearly 31 million bushels, are smallest for July 1 in more than 20 years, except for 1946 and 1947. The 65 million bushels in interior mills and elevators are more than on any other July 1 of record, except 1941, 1942 and 1943. Included in the total are also nearly 4 million bushels of wheat owned by Commodity Credit Corporation, in transit.

_____ explains that the present carryover of old-crop wheat is substantially less than in 1942 and 1943, but at that time acreage allotments and marketing quotas were lifted in anticipation of heavy exports to friendly European nations.

PRICE SUPPORTS PROTECT TURKEY GROWERS' INCOME: Turkey growers are protected by a Government price-support program, _____, Chairmen of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, reminded farmers today.

The program, which sets a floor below which average farm prices should not fall, will operate through purchases of frozen dressed turkeys in carlot quantities. Purchases will be made from producers or from other sellers who certify that they have paid producers the announced support prices for the live turkeys bought from August 1 through their contract delivery date. Prices will vary by zones, by month, and by weight. Turkeys offered to the Government between August 1 and December 28 must be delivered within 30 days.

The liveweight price sellers must pay North Dakota producers for turkeys weighing under 18 pounds is 35.25 cents per pound during the month of August. The support increases $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent each month through November; the December support is the same as for November. August price supports in the State for other weights are: 18-22 pounds, 32 cents; 22-44 pounds, 28.50 cents; 24 pounds and over, 25.75 cents.

"The turkey program will offer a national average price support of about 31 cents a pound," Mr. _____ said. "This is expected to be around 90 percent of parity for the whole marketing season. Last year, producers received a U. S. average liveweight price of 47.4 cents per pound for turkeys sold from August through December - an all-time record level. Prices received by farmers for turkeys on July 15 of this year averaged 34.7 cents per pound."

To encourage the trade to store turkeys during the normal marketing season, the Department of Agriculture will also purchase, during July 1950, frozen turkeys in storage which were purchased from producers in 1949.

DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES NEW GRAIN STORAGE: To encourage the construction of needed additional grain storage facilities by cooperatives and other commercial enterprises, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it is prepared to guarantee occupancy for a short period of time. Such guarantees will be limited to structures built in areas with demonstrated long term storage needs.

State Production and Marketing Administration Committees and county Agricultural Conservation Committees will recommend specific locations, and the dates by which such storage must be ready for use. The Commodity Credit Corporation is not lending money for this construction.

Previous activities of the Department under the national grain storage program announced June 7 have been directed at increasing on-the-farm and non-commercial storage to alleviate the critical storage situation for this year's crops.

Additional information on the program may be obtained from Elmer F. Kruse, Manager, Commodity Credit Corporation, Room 212 West Wing, Administration Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

EUROPEAN CROP PROSPECTS FAVORABLE: The weather was hot and dry in Western Europe from mid-June to mid-July, but the general crop outlook continues relatively favorable, the Department of Agriculture's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations reports.

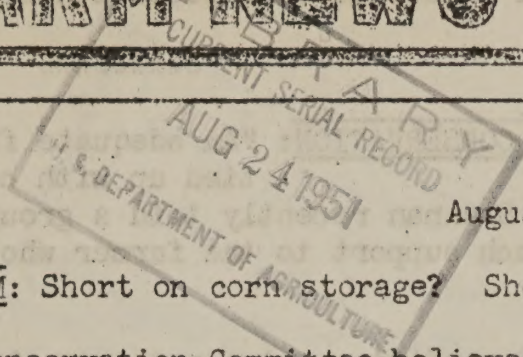
The breadgrain output in Europe, exclusive of the Soviet Union, will probably be about 5 percent below the 1948 level and more than 10 percent below the 1935-39 average. Production of coarse grains is unlikely to show much change from last year. Rice output probably will drop. Potato acreage and expected yields are down. Lower sugar beet yields in prospect are partly offset by an increase in acreage. The outlook for the fruit crop is reported good.

In the Soviet Union, good crop prospects may be offset in part by large harvesting losses. Rains and cool weather have retarded the ripening of grain and threaten to increase the unusually heavy harvesting losses in Russia.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



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August 19, 1949

FARM STORAGE THE KEY TO CORN PROBLEM: Short on corn storage? Short on cash?

The _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee believes that Government storage construction loans are the answer to these questions which face many farmers in corn growing areas.

_____, committee chairman, points out that although this Commodity Credit Corporation construction loan program was announced only a few weeks back, already _____ (number) _____ county farmers have made application for loans and _____ (number) _____ have completed approved storage structures.

"It's never been easier to get the storage we need," _____ said. "Building materials generally are plentiful and there are numerous pre-fabricated bins and cribs on the market. The only other obstacle seems to be money. The CCC loan program takes care of the problem of those who need financial help."

The chairman explains that under the program, corn growers are able to borrow up to 45 cents per bushel of capacity but not to exceed 85 percent of the finished construction cost. The program applies to new storage on farms where storage is needed and for structures that meet CCC specifications. The loans bear interest at four percent and are repayable in 3 or 5 equal yearly installments.

Loan applications are filed with the county ACA committee, but loans may be completed through local banks and other lending agencies approved by CCC.

"There is general agreement among farmers," _____ says, "that the goal for _____ county should be enough good storage on every farm to care for at least one year's crop."

"That means keeping a lot of corn on hand at all times, but a big reserve is the best insurance we have against a short crop. Besides, with plenty of good storage, we can always take advantage of the government price support program and will never have to take less than the support price for our corn."

In the chairman's opinion, with the huge supply of corn that will be on hand after harvest this fall and with the probable shortage of storage space, cash prices are likely to drop below the price support level. If this happens, the difference between the market price and the support price could easily be enough to pay for the storage necessary to get the corn under price-support loan.

_____ also emphasizes that growers with 1948-crop corn under loan or purchase agreement should give serious consideration to "resealing" their corn for an extended loan period. He points out that estimates based on local prices indicate that the 10 cent per bushel storage payment will cover about one-third of the cost of building new storage for an equal amount of the new crop.

Growers with 1948-crop corn under price support have until October 31 to take advantage of the resealing program. The extended loans will mature July 31, 1950.

Plans for storage structures and details of the loan program are available at the county Agricultural Conservation Association office.

BRANNAN EMPHASIZES CONSERVATION: "An adequate farm stabilization program should be tied up with conservation," Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently told a group of farmers. It is not common sense to give as much support to the farmer who abuses his land as to the farmer who conserves it.

"Therefore, I would condition price supports wherever possible upon observance of conservation and good land use practices. This is not a new idea, but a principle that is well-founded in farm legislation.

"Years ago, when benefit payments were being made, farmers were required to use their diverted acres for soil-conserving purposes in order to be eligible for payments. Certainly, the great majority of farmers expect to carry out reasonable responsibilities as regards their land -- and among these responsibilities the observance of sound conservation practices stands in the forefront."

ACP COMMITTEEMEN ELECTIONS JUST AHEAD: It is probable that there will be an increase in _____ county funds to assist farmers in carrying out approved conservation practices in 1950, according to _____, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

For the 1950 program Congress has authorized \$285 million as compared with \$265 million for 1949.

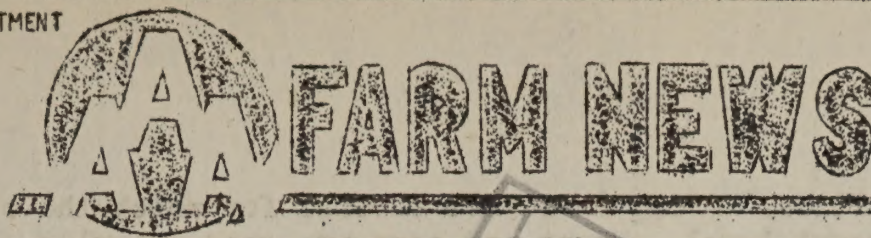
The chairman explains that this money is used to assist farmers in carrying out soil and water conservation practices on their individual farms. Practices for which payments are available is left largely to the county committee. Assistance is provided only for approved conservation practices and specifications have to be met, but the committee has the responsibility of deciding - within the limits of the county allocation - the amount available for each farmer. This, together with increased price support and related activities, makes the coming agricultural conservation committee election even more important than usual, says the chairman.

Elections are held every year in every agricultural community. In these elections farmers cooperating in Production and Marketing Administration programs elect community committeemen and delegates to a county convention where a county committee is elected.

The county committee, consisting of a chairman, vice chairman, member and two alternate members, has the responsibility of deciding the use of funds in meeting conservation needs and is in charge of activities connected with price support, purchase agreement, and loan programs.

The chairman states, "If each farmer realized the importance of the decisions which his three committeemen in the county office have to make, decisions which determine the use of conservation funds and the effectiveness of price support programs, he would be as careful in selecting his ACP committeeman as in selecting a manager for his farm."

The date of the coming elections this year will be announced later.



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August 26, 1949

CONSERVATION AND CROPS: Conservation isn't limited to keeping soil from blowing and washing away. According to _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, a good share of the conservation job is building up resistance to erosion and keeping land in good condition to grow future crops.

These conditions have to do with the amount of moisture in the soil, the supply of plant food available to growing crops and the structure of the soil.

Conservation of water, both on irrigated and unirrigated land, is a part of the Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman explains. This means, among other things, providing conditions which increase the ability of the land to soak up water when it falls or is applied by irrigation. Adding humus to the soil is one method of increasing the water-holding capacity of the soil. Structures such as terraces and contour furrows which slow down the run-off are mechanical means of keeping water on the farm.

To control erosion and to build into the soil resistance to blowing and washing, crops with a heavy ground cover and good root systems are needed. Grasses and legumes as a permanent cover or in rotation are frequently used to accomplish this purpose. Lime and phosphate are applied to increase the growth of these soil and water conserving crops.

Through crop residue management and the use of cover crops and grass and legumes in rotation, the humus needed to maintain the right soil structure for growing plants is kept in balance.

The chairman points out that conservation practices of this kind are aimed at preventing erosion and depletion and such prevention is even more important than the construction of dams and terraces which are often put in to correct damage already done. The aim of all such Agricultural Conservation Program practices, the chairman points out, is to provide the best growing conditions for plants which produce food and fiber for the use of people.

FARMERS MUST HELP MAKE PROGRAMS WORK, SAYS TRIGG: The agricultural producer must play his full part in developing and carrying out programs to meet changing conditions and changing needs, Ralph S. Trigg, Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration, recently told a group of farmers in Maine.

"It is not enough for Congress to authorize farm programs, and for an agency in Washington to outline the details and make them available," Mr. Trigg said. "The farmer himself must help make the programs work...."

"Price-support programs, at the levels authorized by Congress, are in effect for a

number of farm commodities. Among these are several for which the open market price is now below this support level. Wheat and corn are good examples. This means that enough farmers are marketing outside the price-support structures to force the market price down. They either have not bothered to get the storage facilities necessary to take advantage of price support loans on storable commodities, or they have been willing to sell below the support level for reasons of their own.

"There is nothing that we can do about such a situation, except to make the support programs easily available and to urge farmers to take advantage of them. This we have done, and are continuing to do. Beyond that, farmers must make their own contribution.

"The same thing holds for the price-support programs for perishable commodities. Producers cannot expect the government to do it all. Any sound price-support action must be based upon the condition that farmers themselves will go along with necessary adjustments to make the programs workable, even if this means cutting down on the acreage they would like to plant.

HUMUS HOLDS THE SOIL BUT IT MUST BE REPLACED: Generally, only about two or three years protection to the soil is provided when a good grass sod is plowed under. According to _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, research findings indicate that after two or three years the roots have decayed to the extent that most of their value as protection against erosion has been lost.

The studies indicate that during the two or three/period the plowed under vegetable matter is effective, it helps hold the soil together, adds to the ability of the soil to soak up water, protects the soil structure from breaking down and when the roots decay, they add to the fertility of the soil.

_____ explains that kind of soil, condition of the soil, temperature, rainfall water and the velocity of winds have much to do with the rate of decay and amount of erosion. While in general plowed under sod offers erosion protection for two or three years, there are conditions where the period is reduced to one year or less. Some soils may become an erosion hazard the first year they are broken out of grass, which means that they should not be plowed.

This whole problem becomes of increasing importance, the chairman explains, now that farmers are again facing the need for reducing the acreage of tilled crops, providing a real opportunity to get land most susceptible to erosion back into grass. Not only will the grass protect the land but it will build reserves for future cropping if and when necessary.

Information on the Agricultural Conservation Program practices to help farmers to seed and maintain grasses and legumes may be obtained at the county ACP office located at _____.
